

Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-06

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R 301120Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3110

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 3614

EO 11652:N A

TAGS: BEXP, IV

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECT: MAN-SAN PEDRO MINING RAILROAD

REF: A) ABIDJAN 2193

B) ABIDJAN 3403

C) STATE 095332

PASS EXIM BANK

1. AMB MET ON APRIL 28 WITH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR MINES
PAUL GUI DIBO ON THE SUBJECT OF THE ENGINEERING STUDY OFR
THE MAN-SAN PEDRO MINING RAILROAD AND TO INTRODUCE JOHN
SANDS, DIRECTOR OF MEPD, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

2. THE FIVE CONSORTIA'S PROPOSALS HAD BEEN OPENED ON
APRIL 22 AND EXAMINED WITH THE RESULT THAT TWO CONSORTIA,
SOFRRAIL/BCEOM AND LOUIS BERGER/TRANSURB ARE
CONSIDERED WELL ABOVE THE OTHER CANDIDATES AND BOTH
EQUALLY COMPLETITIVE ON A TECHNICAL LEVEL.

3. THE FINAL DECISION BETWEEN THESE TWO CONSORTIA WAS
TO HAVE BEEN MADE BY MINISTER GUI DIBO, HOWEVER, AT THE LAST
MINUTE PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY ASKED THE MINISTER TO
JOIN HIM ON YAMOUSSOUKRO TO DISCUSS THE CANDIDTATES.
ACCORDING TO THE MINISTER, HIS (THE MINISTER'S) DECISION
WOULD VERY LIKELY HAVE BEEN A FUNCTION OF THE KIND OF
FINANCING THE CONSORTIA WOULD ULTIMATELY BE ABLE TO DEVELOP
FOR THE RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION. THE RAILROAD STUDY,
ESTIMATED AT \$6.5 MILLION, IS ALREADY FUNDED.

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4. INASMUCH AS THE PRESIDENT HAS RECENTLY MET WITH
VARIOUS INTERESTED PARTIES IN THIS COMPETITION, THE
MINISTER FEELS THAT ANY ADDITIONAL INPUT THE PRESIDENT
MIGHT HAVE IS LIKELY TO CONCERN
THE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS.
SMITH

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